

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 SCCT-01 /086 W
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R 201425ZLCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2945

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS PRETORIA 9385

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, PINS, PINT

SUBJ: CHARGES FLY OVER SITHOLE DISAPPEARANCE

1. DISAPPEARANCE OF ANC (MUZOREWA GROUP) PUBLICITY
SECRETARY DR. EDSON SITHOLE HAS PROVIDED ANOTHER TOPIC
FOR INTER-FACTIONAL ANC DISPUTE AS WELL AS INCREASING
BLACK SUSPICION OF SMITH REGIME.

2. SITHOLE AND 16 YEAR OLD SECRETARY MIRIAM KHLANGA WERE
REPORTEDLY HUSTLED AWAY IN VAN BY GROUP OF WHITE MEN OUT-
SIDE SALISBURY HOTEL EVENING OCTOBER 15. ONE EYE WITNESS
TOLD PRESS THAT HE HEARD WHITE MEN STATE THAT THEY WERE
FROM "SECURITY BRANCH". THOUGH RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS
DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SITHOLE'S WHEREABOUTS AND PRESS
HAS SPECULATED ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT HE PICKED UP BY
PRIVATE WHITE VIGILANTE GROUP, MOST BLACKS BELIEVE SMITH
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REGIME STILL MOST LIKELY CULPRIT.

3. AT MEETING OCT. 19 OF MUSOREWA FACTION TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEKS'S "NATIONAL CONSULATATIVE MEETING" SITHOLE'S DISAPPEARANCE ALSO DISCUSSED. DR. ELLIOT GABELLAH ISSUED STATEMENT ASSERTING THAT GOVERNMENT DENIALS "CAST DOUBTS ON THE INTEGRITY OF THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED".

4. GABELLAH ALSO TOOK SWING AT JOSHUA NKOMO BY ASSERTING THAT NKOMO HAD AT ONE POINT THREATENED EDSON SITHOLE AND GORDON CHAVUNDUKA IN LUSAKA AND HAD SAID, " I WILL KILL YOU AND YOU WILL SEE, BOYS, THAT I MEAN WHAT I SAY." GABELLAH'S IRE HAD BEEN AROUSED BY NKOMO'S CLAIM PUBLISHED IN RHODESIA SUNDAY MAIL OCT, 19 THAT SITHOLE DISAPPEARANCE MIGHT BE LINKED TO MEETING PREVIOUS WEEKEND DURING WHICH, KNOMO ALLEGED, SITHOLE CHALLENGED GABELLAH FOR ANC (MUSOREWA FACTION) VICOPR
DLRSENCY.#
BOWDLER

NOTE BY OCT: #TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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